



# General Assembly

Fifty-fifth session

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## General Committee

### Summary record of the 6th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 9 April 2001 at 9.30 a.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Pamir (Vice-President of the General Assembly) . . . . . (Turkey)

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*In the absence of Mr. Holkeri (Finland), Mr. Pamir (Turkey), Vice-President of the General Assembly, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 9.35 a.m.*

**Adoption of the agenda of the fifty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly and allocation of items (continued)**

*Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Togo (A/55/240 and Add.1)*

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to consider a request by Togo for the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Africa". The representative of Togo had asked to address the Committee in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Menan (Togo), took a place at the Committee table.*

3. **Mr. Menan** (Togo), speaking on behalf of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), said that the request for inclusion of the item was motivated by the fact that malaria, one of the major causes of mortality in Africa and thus a serious obstacle to development, could be contained if the efforts being made by the African countries were backed by decisive action on the part of the international community. Unlike some pandemics, such as HIV/AIDS, the international community had the means to prevent, treat and cure malaria. Owing to the financial difficulties facing the African countries and the extreme poverty of their populations, however, malaria continued to take some 1 million lives annually on that continent. Moreover, while some \$12 billion annually were spent on combating malaria in Africa, a tiny fraction of that amount would suffice if Africa's people enjoyed decent living conditions.

4. It was for all those reasons that the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in Abuja on 24 and 25 April 2000, had adopted a Declaration and Plan of Action on the "Roll Back Malaria" initiative, which aimed to halve malaria mortality for Africa's people by 2010 through the implementation of strategies and measures at the national, subregional and regional levels. The Assembly of Heads of State and

Government of OAU, meeting in Lomé from 10 to 12 July 2000, had adopted a decision endorsing the Declaration and Plan of Action and calling on the United Nations to proclaim the period 2001-2010 the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Africa.

5. He therefore wished to request, on behalf of the OAU member States, the inclusion of an item to that effect in the agenda of the current session. That would help to mobilize the assistance and support of the international community, in an act of solidarity that was in keeping with the commitment in the Millennium Declaration to meeting the special needs of Africa.

6. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of the item entitled "Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Africa" in the agenda of the current session and that it should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

*The meeting rose at 9.40 a.m.*